

REMARKS

These remarks and the accompanying amendments are responsive to the Office Action mailed February 14, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as the "Office Action"), having a shortened statutory period for response that expires May 16, 2005. Claims 1-8 were pending at the time of the last examination and stand rejected. Claims 1-8 are currently amended herein, and are thus presented again for reconsideration and examination in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejected each of the independent Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States patent number 6,574,239 issued to Dowling et al. (the patent hereinafter referred to as "Dowling").

In the system configuration 200 of Dowling, even when the physical layer communication path 180 is in the disconnected state, the application session communication paths 184 is remained in a deactivated but existent state. Likewise, the virtual session communication path 182 established between the remote unit 100 and the virtual session server 215 also remains in a deactivated but existent state. This is made possible through the use of the table structure maintained in memory. Thus, when the physical layer communication path 180 has been reconnected, the virtual session communication path 182 and the application session communication paths 184 are reactivated (see Dowling, column 9, lines 40 to 60).

In contrast, as described in the present application, the service agent 111 of the present invention is connected between user's terminal 101 and WWW server 102. When a fault and so on occur in WWW server 102 to stop its services and the transfer of information is interrupted, SA 111 transmits the user's request to WWW server 102 on behalf of the user and reproduces the session between SA 111 and WWW server 102. That is, if the physical layer communication path is disconnected between user's terminal 101 and WWW server 102, SA 111 does not remain

a session communication path between user's terminal 101 and WWW server 102 but reproduces the session between SA 111 and WWW server 102. If user's terminal 101 can continue to receive the service, SA 111 transfers the service results received on the reproduced session (see page 6, lines 7 to 19 of the applicants' specification).

Each independent Claim 1, 3, 5 and 7, therefore, is amended to recite "a service ... connected between a user's terminal and a server" that continues "a session between said server and said service control apparatus on behalf of said application ... if it is determined ... [the session between the application in said user's terminal and a server] has been interrupted." Thus, the service reproduces the session with the server on behalf of the user's terminal. This is not described by Dowling. Thus, the applicants' respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7.

The Office Action rejects the dependent Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 as being unpatentable over Dowling in view of United States patent number 6,430,624 issued to Jamtgaard et al. (the patent hereinafter referred to "Jamtgaard"). Like Dowling, Jamtgaard does not teach or suggest "a service ... connected between a user's terminal and a server" that continues "a session between said server and said service control apparatus on behalf of said application ... if it is determined ... [the session between the application in said user's terminal and a server] has been interrupted" as recited in each of the independent claims. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are not unpatentable over even the combination of Dowling and Jamtgaard. Therefore, Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8, which depend from Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7, respectively, are also not unpatentable over the combination for at least the reasons provided for their respective independent claim. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8.

Accordingly, favorable action is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 12th day of May, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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